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## IN THE CLAIMS

- 1. (currently amended) A method of fitting a tire [[P]] (P) and a removable tread support [[S]] (S) on a one-piece wheel rim [[J]] (J), said rim comprising a first rim seat, inclined outwards, extended axially outwards by a projection of low height and joined axially inwards to a rim bearing surface intended to receive said tread support [[S]] (S) and a second rim seat, inclined outwards, whose axially inner end is on a circle with a diameter greater than [[the]] a diameter of a circle on which the axially inner end of the first rim seat is situated, and said tire [[P]] (P) comprising a first bead and a second bead which will be mounted respectively on the first and second rim seats, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) placing said tread support [[S]] (S) into said tire [[P]] (P),
  - (b) placing, from a side opposite to the second rim seat, the second bead of said tire [[P]] (P) and said tread support [[S]] (S) on the rim [[J]] (J) until positioned on said rim bearing surface;
  - (c) fitting said tread support [[S]] (S) completely onto said rim bearing surface and mounting the first bead on the first rim seat; and
- (d) mounting the second bead on the second rim seat;
  whereby the step (c) of fitting said tread support onto said rim bearing surface further comprises
  the sequence of sub-steps of:
  - first, gripping the first bead seat of said tire [[P]] (P) at a given location before completely pushing said tread support [[S]] (S) on said rim bearing surface, then
  - moving radially outward said given location of the first bead seat to move the first bead seat radially away from said tread support [[S]] (S),

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- pushing said tread support [[S]] (S) completely onto said rim bearing surface, and

- releasing the first bead after completing the pushing of the said tread support [[S]] (S) on to said rim [[J]] (J).
- 2. (currently amended) The mounting method according to Claim 1, wherein the step (c) of fitting said tread support [[S]] (S) on said rim bearing surface is accomplished by direct axial pushing of an application tool against the wall of said tread support [[S]] (S) and said tool being disposed on the side of said tread support corresponding to the first bead and while rotating said rim about its axis of symmetry.
- 3. (currently amended) The mounting method according to Claim 2, wherein the step (c) of fitting said tread support [[S]] (S) on said rim bearing surface is continued until a stop on said application tool contacts an external projection on the first seat of said rim [[J]] (J).
- 4. (currently amended) The mounting method according to Claim 3, wherein said rim [[J]]

  (J) further comprises a mounting well disposed between the second seat and said rim bearing surface of said tread support, and wherein
  - the step (b) of placing the second bead of said tire [[P]] (P) and said tread support [[S]] (S) further comprises placing the second bead into said mounting well, and
  - after fitting completely said tread support [[S]] (S) on said rim bearing surface and before releasing the first bead of said tire, moving the first bead axially outwardly to exert a traction on the second bead to create a local space between the second bead of said tire [[P]] (P) and the wall of said mounting well adjacent to the second seat of said rim [[J]] (J), and introducing a mounting lever into said local space between the second bead and the wall of the mounting well adjacent to the second seat.

Claims 5 - 14 (cancelled)